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SECRETARY OF STATE

August 21, 2008

2008 AUG 22 PM 2: 02

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer
Arizona Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Vote Count Verification Committee

Dear Secretary Brewer:

The Vote Count Verification Committee met on August 12, 2008, to review the current designated margins previously established by the Committee in accordance with A.R.S. § 16-602(L). The Committee has chosen to retain the margins set in 2006 for the next two years.

On behalf of the Committee, we want to applaud your efforts to implement the hand count and early ballot audit law during the past two years. The results of your procedure proved to be a success during the 2006 General Election and the February 5, 2008 Presidential Preference Election. The hand counts conducted established very little variance between the machine count and the hand count and in most instances no variance at all. The small variances that occurred appear to be the result of voters marking their ballots in a way that could not be read by the equipment, but could be determined by the hand count board members.

We believe these hand counts firmly establish that Arizona's voting equipment is working properly and that the public should have a high degree of confidence that their votes are being tabulated accurately.

After careful discussion and consideration, the Committee chose not to change the designated margins set by the Committee in 2006. Although we have data from many hand counts, we believe that more data is needed to conduct a complete statistical analysis before any change in the margins is considered. There are several factors that weighed into this decision, including an increased number of early ballots expected as a result of the new permanent early voting list, an increased number of votes being cast at the 2008 Presidential Election and a greater expected participation by the counties in the hand count and early ballot audit as a result of a recent change in the law.

Consequently, in accordance with A.R.S. § 16-602(L)(4), the Vote Count Verification Committee hereby reestablishes the designated margin for early ballots to be set at five votes or two percent, whichever is greater and reestablishes the designated margin for regular ballots to be set at three votes or one percent, whichever is greater.

It is my recommendation that the Committee reconvene next year to review the results of the hand counts following the 2008 Primary and General Elections. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on this important Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Lewis" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. William E. Lewis, Chair
Vote Count Verification Committee